

Claims Status

1. (Presently Amended) In a ~~jeep-type~~ vehicle characterized by a pair of removable side doors operatively carried on a vehicle at a door mounting having pairs of vertically spaced hinge brackets for receiving the hinge pins of the removable side doors and lock pins for latching engagement with a door latching mechanism on the side door and wherein said vehicle is provided with a trailer tail hitch having a longitudinally rearwardly opening receiver, a door carrier for transporting the side doors on the vehicle after removal from the door mountings, said door carrier comprising: a mounting member having a front end for telescopic insertion and operative retention into said receiver-sleeve; a base frame member pivotally connected to said mounting member about a transverse horizontal axis and moveable between a vertical raised position and a horizontal lowered position; a pair of side frame members pivotally connected in laterally spaced relationship to said frame member for movement at said lowered position about longitudinal horizontal axes between a horizontal position overlying said base frame member and a vertical position normal thereto; a first set of mounting members at a front portions portion of said side frame members replicating said door mounting of the vehicle for one of said side doors including pin receiving

members for the hinge pins of said one of said pair of side doors on one of said side frame members and a door lock member on the other of said side frame members for operative engagement with the latching mechanism thereof; a second set of mounting members at a rear ~~portions~~ portion of said side frame members replicating said door mounting of the vehicle for the other of said side doors including pin receiving members for the hinge pins of said other of said pair of side doors on said other of said side frame members and a door lock member on said one of said side frame members for operative engagement with the latching mechanism, whereby said side doors may be removed from the vehicle and carried in spaced relation on said sets of mounting members replicating the door mountings on the vehicle.

2. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 1 including means cooperating between said base frame member and said side frame members for locking said side frame members in said vertical position.

3. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 2 including means cooperating between said base frame member and said mounting member for selectively locking said base frame member in said horizontal position and said vertical position.

4. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 1 wherein said side frame members each include a pair of longitudinally spaced arms pivotally connected at lower ends to said base frame member and interconnected by a cross member, one of said arms including said pin receiving members for one of said side doors and the cross member carrying said door lock members for the other of said side doors.
5. (Currently Amended) The door carrier as ~~recite~~ recited in claim 4 wherein said sets of mounting members are disposed to carry said side doors with the exteriors facing rearwardly.
6. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 4 wherein said base frame member includes a center support member and a pair of longitudinally spaced transverse cross members attached to said center support member and said arms are pivotally connected at the outer ends of said cross members.
7. (Currently Amended) A door carrier for removable doors of a vehicle wherein the doors include a pair of vertically spaced downwardly extending pin members and a longitudinally spaced latching mechanism,

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said door carrier comprising: a frame member for attachment at the rear of said vehicle, said frame member having laterally spaced side vertically extending side frame assemblies provided with sets of mounting sleeves for receiving said pin members of said doors and a latching member for engagement with said latching mechanism of said doors, the arrangement of said sets being such that said doors may be carried thereon in longitudinally spaced relation.

8. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 7 wherein said side frame assemblies are inwardly pivotal into overlying relation with said frame member.

9. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 8 wherein said frame member is pivotally connected to said vehicle for pivotal movement between a lowered position for carrying said doors and a raised position adjacent the rear of said vehicle.

10. (Original) The door carrier as recited in claim 7 wherein said attachment with said vehicle includes a hitch receiver on said vehicle and a forwardly projecting support member on said frame member for releasable coupling therewith.

11. (Currently Amended) The door carrier as recited in claim 10 wherein each of said sets includes a pair of brackets attached in vertically spaced relation on said side frame assemblies and an inwardly projecting cylindrical lock pins operatively engagable by said latching mechanism.

12. Cancelled

13. (New) A method of transporting a removable door on a vehicle wherein said door includes a door panel having a pair of vertically spaced hinge pins at one side and a latch mechanism actuated by a pin at another side and wherein said vehicle has a trailer hitch at a rear end, said method comprising: providing a frame member including a connecting member for removable mounting at the trailer hitch; providing a first pair of sleeve members on said frame member for receiving said hinge pins at a mounting position; and providing a first pin on said frame member for actuating said latch mechanism at said mounting position.

14. (New) The method as recited in claim 13 including providing said frame member with a second pair of sleeve members and a second pin for carrying another door of the vehicle.